GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6952
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
SEMI ARID CROPS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new research is being conducted for improving semi-arid crops in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to lay down a policy for research and development of pulses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The research on semi-arid crops is being conducted for developing high yielding varieties and technologies for rainfed situations, enhancing productivity through better management, crop sequencing, inter-cropping and development of efficient methods for conservation, storage and use of rain water. Integrated nutrient, pest and weed management are also being taken up for efficient management of resources and control of insect pests and diseases.

(c) & (d): The research on pulse crops is being conducted through Indian Institute of Pulse Research, Kanpur and four `All India Coordinated Research Improvement Projects,` i.e. on Chickpea, Pigeonpea, MULLARP (Mungbean, Urdbean, Lathyrus, Lenti Rajmah, pea) and Arid Legumes. Major focus of research is on development of superior varieties and hybrids (pigeonpea) having resistance/tolerance to important pests, use of biotechnological tools in crop improvement, strengthening of programme on plant genetic resources, developing technology for management of biotic and abiotic stresses, integrated nutrient and pest management. The technology development for different intercropping systems and non-traditional areas are also intensified. Research on pulses was brought under the technology mission to facilitate better results in a targeted time frame.

The long-term objective of research in pulse crops is to achieve self-sufficiency through increasing productivity of different pulse crops under different situations and agro-climatic conditions.